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Supporting Enterprise Networks and Operating Environments

SUPPORT

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storage management

**What exactly did ESCON
do for tape performance?**

**Virtual Tape: Spice for the
Seasoned Professional**



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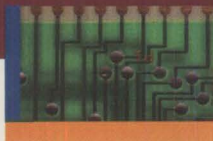
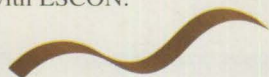
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This article discusses what a VTS subsystem is, what problems it addresses, and ideas for cost justification.



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This case study documents the conversion effort and performance changes that occurred when one data center converted from an older 3480 tape configuration to a newer HDS 7491E (IBM 3490E-compatible) configuration with ESCON.



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When the wall dividing East and West Germany came down in November 1989, the resulting union posed new challenges and opportunities for the people of the former Eastern Bloc as well as for vendors of technology worldwide.



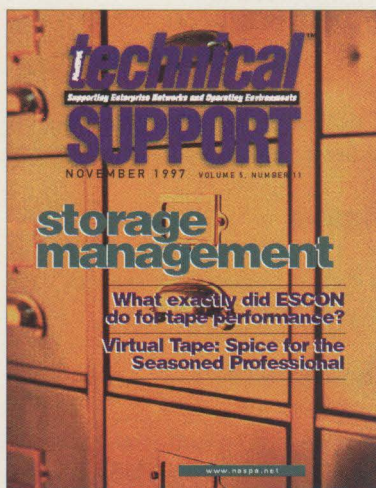
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The Novell Application Launcher promises to simplify the software distribution process by placing knowledge of the application and the required workstation modifications in the NDS database.



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Out With the New, in With the Old

BY MIKE NORTON

Perhaps it was the stress... A number of columns back I mentioned a friend of mine who after years of pursuing the ultimate system dream finally experienced something akin to a nervous breakdown (some would say enlightenment) and demolished his state-of-the-art setup and installed Windows 3.1 and Doom.

Well, I recently deleted my Windows 95 partition and went back to Windows 3.1 (although no Doom). A rather rash action for a true "Blue" man, especially considering at that moment it happened to be my lone operating system, although I did have the patience to wait until the project I was working on was delivered to the customer. My rage was ignited by having once again been duped by Windows 95's long file names. I was working on a Java development environment for SoftTouch System's CrossPlex product for a joint presentation with IBM on a groundbreaking legacy-to-web conversion endeavor. As you all know, time is tight in the business world; the last thing I needed at show time was to discover that Windows 95 had all my Java classes with eight character names and .CLA extensions. So, out went the new and in with the old. At least Windows 3.1 is honest.

CHOOSING AN OPERATING SYSTEM: IT'S PERSONAL

This isn't yet another OS/2 zealot diatribe railing against the WinTel cartel. I didn't bother when the operating system wars raged on the newsgroups; they sounded suspiciously like the Ford/Chevy man thing I observed in high school. My opinion is that choosing an operating system is a personal decision. The operating system that best fills my needs gets my nod of approval. If my computer experience was playing games, I'd use whatever version of Windows ran the best and most games. I'm a firm believer in the old consultant saw: Select the software, then the

operating system to run the software, then the machine to run the operating system. Since I regularly work on projects both at home and at the office, my connectivity needs are higher than the typical user.

The real reason I gave up on Windows 95 is that I need to use the machine as both a client and a server. Windows 95 is an nice client, but it doesn't work well as a server. The future of the computer world is objects, which will require all machines to function equally well as clients and servers. Bill Gates knows this, of course, and that's why he's pounding the press with the word that Windows NT will be the corporate desktop, despite the fact that a majority of sites are still running Windows 3.1 and waiting for the Java deluge to make being chained to a windowing system obsolete. The promise of these new Java applications is to free operating systems from bearing the burden of interfacing with the user and to be, well, just plain old operating systems. The incident with Windows 95 and the filenames is an example of what can happen when the two are united in unholy matrimony.

NEW USER ENVIRONMENTS

As it led the way into an object-oriented shell with the Workplace, OS/2 is once again leading the way. Ironically, this time it's abandoning that same Workplace Shell. OS/2 "Blue Bird" is designed to work underneath what has been called a browser "personality," with appropriately blurred distinctions between local and remote machines. The new Windows desktop is another example of the principle, although the implementations are radically different. These new user environments are indicative of the realities of a suddenly networked world, where resources are expected to be remote in significant enough proportion to warrant, even demand,

representation on the desktop. Until now, these objects have been of a kind most people can identify with: data files including web pages and ftp resources. Applications are slightly more difficult to conceptualize. Client/server is certainly nothing new, but no one has seen anything like technologies such as RPC and SNMP released on networks of the scale of the Internet. But even these facilities are but a dim shadow of the unleashing of the power of object technologies on the net. Imagine a world in which the methods of an object on one machine are accessible from other machines on the network — a world of distributed objects.

OS/2: AS HEALTHY AS EVER

So what does all of this have to do with OS/2? I've spent the last few columns "building the perfect beast" with a particular emphasis on the OS/2 command environment, arriving, with some fanfare, at the Workplace Shell — which is where, it has been my observation, most people start with OS/2. There has been much innuendo about the demise of OS/2 in the computer press and on the newsgroups, but the truth is OS/2 is as healthy as ever. It is a robust operating system with unequalled connectivity — precisely the requirements for a new, networked world. True, it cannot run those latest "Designed for Microsoft Windows 95" apps, but it runs Java applications across the Internet and intranets with flair. The next few columns will examine the relationship between Java and OS/2. **ts**

Was this column of value to you? If so, please circle Reader Response Card No. 44.

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